

The logo for the United States Census 2000, featuring the text "United States Census 2000" in white on a black background.

United States
Census
2000

Older and More Likely to Answer the Census

Householders Aged 55 and Older Are More Likely Than Younger Adults to Mail Back Their Census Questionnaires.

Perhaps they see it as their civic duty — because they know the census was written into the U.S. Constitution to ensure Congressional representation reflects the population distribution among the states. Maybe they have taken part in censuses before and their experience tells them that the Census Bureau can be trusted to keep their answers confidential. They could know that mailing back their questionnaires saves taxpayer dollars by eliminating the need to send a census taker to their door. Or maybe they understand that the numbers generated by the census benefit their community. We don't really know why older adults are more likely to answer the census than others, but we appreciate their support.

Census 2000 Will Benefit Older Adults.

- People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal funding and valuable information for planning hospitals, care facilities, community centers and special transportation services for people with disabilities.
- Information on age and disability is used to plan for the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.
- Equal employment opportunities are enforced under the Age Discrimination and Employment Act using census information.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs uses census information to determine the future need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, domiciliary services and other benefits for veterans.
- Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on census information about elderly people with low incomes.
- Census information assists state and local agencies in determining the adequacy of housing for older people.
- Under the Federal Transit Act, census information is used to allocate funds for mass transit systems to provide handicapped facilities.
- The Administration on Aging uses information about whether or not there is a telephone available as a measure of social isolation.

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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U.S. Census Bureau, *the Official Statistics*™



Hiring from the community is an important part of Census 2000's strategy for success.

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573

Boston 617-424-4977

Charlotte 704-344-6624

Chicago 312-353-9759

Dallas 214-655-3060

Denver 303-231-5029

Detroit 248-967-9524

Kansas City 816-801-2020

Los Angeles 818-904-6522

New York City 212-620-7702
or 212-620-7703

Philadelphia 215-597-8312

Seattle 206-553-5882

Responding to Census 2000 Will Be Easy.

- Census 2000 questionnaires will be easy-to-read and simple to fill out. To ensure that everyone is included, we'll make additional forms available in Spanish and other languages.
- To help people complete their forms, Questionnaire Assistance Centers will be opened.
- A toll-free telephone help line with a multilingual staff will be listed on the census questionnaire.

Wherever You Are, the Census Will Be There.

- Some individuals live in one state during the spring, summer and fall, but move to another state in a warmer climate during the winter months. We consider these people to be on a "yearly cycle," and they should be enumerated at the residence where they spend most of their time during the year.
- People receiving short-term care at general hospitals or Veterans Affairs facilities should be included on the form at their usual residence (their home). People receiving long-term care at nursing or convalescent homes will be enumerated by census takers at these facilities.

Can Older Adults Work for Census 2000?

Yes! Hiring from the community is an important part of Census 2000's strategy for success. Census workers receive up to three days of structured, paid training in organizing work, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations. They will work in their own communities with daily hands-on coaching from a supervisor. In addition to performing work important to the community, successful employees will receive a letter from the Census Bureau documenting their acquired skills. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census. Call toll-free **(1-888-325-7733)** for more information about Census 2000 jobs.

Answering the Census Is Important, Easy and Safe.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.